United Nations A/55/636

General Assembly

Distr.: General
21 November 2000

Original: English

Fifty-fifth session
Agenda items 92, 100, 154 and 158

Macroeconomic policy questions

Globalization and interdependence

Progressive development of the principles and norms of international law relating to the new international economic order

Report of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law on the work of its thirty-third session

Letter dated 20 November 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Brazil to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the Declaration of Itacuruçá, adopted during the 2000 Info-Ethics Seminar of governmental experts from Latin America and the Caribbean, held at Itacuruçá, Rio de Janeiro, on 26 and 27 October 2000, under the auspices of the Government of Brazil and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 92, 100, 154 and 158.

(*Signed*) Gelson **Fonseca**, Jr.
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Brazil to the United Nations

00-75757 (E) 281100

Annex to the letter dated 20 November 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Brazil to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: English]

Itacuruçá Declaration
27 October, 2000

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN'S RECOMMENDATIONS TO UNESCO'S III INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS ON CYBERSPACE'S ETHICAL, LEGAL AND SOCIETAL CHALLENGES

The InfoEthics 2000 Latin American and Caribbean governmental experts Consultative Meeting on "The Right to Universal Access to Information in the 21st Century: Ethical, Legal and Societal Challenges posed by the Information Society to Latin America and the Caribbean" was convened under the auspices of UNESCO and the Government of Brazil in Itacuruçá, Rio de Janeiro State, on 26 and 27 October, 2000.

Taking into account the aspirations expressed in the Florianópolis Declaration, particularly, the shared desire of Latin American and Caribbean countries to reach the year 2005, integrated as full-fledged members of the information society with efficiency, equity and sustainability, within the framework of a global economy based on knowledge and as a result of their discussions, the governmental representatives from the 18 participating countries (listed in Annex) decided to adopt the following Declaration, which will be proffered as the region's contribution to UNESCO's III International Congress on Cyberspace's Ethical, Legal and Societal Challenges:

CONSIDERING

1. The risk that current transformations caused by information and communication technologies may lead to deepen social inequalities within countries, as well as to widen the international asymmetry between developed and developing countries, the right to economic and social development, understood to be the democratic access to Knowledge Society, becomes the main contemporary ethical challenge posed by the Information Society.

2. The State's indispensable role in promoting universal access of its peoples to the benefits of the Information Society.

3. That the rights to education and access to culture [Articles 26 (1,2) & 27 (1)], as well as intellectual property rights [Article 27 (2)], inasmuch as all are human rights, must be understood as complementary to each other.

4. That access to information in cyberspace is an imperative social goal.

5. That tutelage of intellectual property constitutes a stimulus to the promotion of creativity and cultural industry.

6. That fair use or legitimate use, within the framework of copyright laws, is that which enables access to intellectual property, inasmuch as normal exploitation is not injured nor is unjustified harm caused to the author's legitimate rights.

7. That intellectual property rights treaties allow for the introduction of specific exceptions in benefit of the public good.

8. That the protection of information is not sufficiently guaranteed in Latin America and the Caribbean and that the privacy of personal data should be respected as an integral part of human rights.

9. That digital networks and information and communication technologies offer new opportunities for the expression of thought.

RECOMMEND

1. Adopting special policies and actions that favour developing countries with the aim of bridging the digital divide.

2. Strengthening those laws bearing on digital information, with a particular focus on fulfilling the requirements for the development of education, science and culture, within an adequate ethical framework for the Information Society.

3. The support of international organisations, within their areas of competence, to the efforts conducted by Member States to promote the construction of a communications infrastructure and Infostructure, covering their respective territories, which are available to all their population.

4. That Member States stimulate the production of local and national contents for public use to foster education, science and culture.

5. That Member States, with the support of competent international organisations, foster the creation of a regional information space for public use, to advance the development and integration of Latin American and Caribbean societies, increasing their visibility in the global information society.

6. That Member States tailor national legislation that does not embrace or include fair use to include and apply fair use to cyberspace. Additionally, that those national laws which do apply fair use broaden their range of application for the promotion of education, science and culture.

7. That Member States consider the convenience of adopting pertinent measures for the protection of human dignity within the cyberspace environment.

8. Creating a regional programme on the Information Society aimed at providing for the continuity of efforts carried out by Latin American and Caribbean countries to insert themselves fully into the digital era.

Annex

List of participants*

Delegates	Country	Institution			
Gastón Gonzalo Riveros Tejada	Bolivia	National Academy of Sciences of Bolivia	Adviser - Informatics Consultancy	Tel: (591-2) 750051 Cel: (591-2) 1533035	gorite@hotmail.com
Jorge Guevara Espinoza	Bolivia			Tel: (591) 423-5269 /1494267	jo.gueva@umss.edu.bo
Kátia Gilaberte	Brazil	Ministry of Science and Technology	Minister - Chief of International Co-operation Advisory	Tel: (55-61) 317-7620 Fax: 317-7571	kgilaberte@mct.gov.br
Andrés Venegas Cabello	Chile	CONICYT	Presidential Adviser	Tel: (56-2) 6551389/ 3654405	andresvenegas@terra.cl
Martha Cecilia Rodriguez Delgado	Colombia	Presidency of the Republic	Co-ordinator - National Connectivity Agenda	Tel: (57-1) 344-2270, 3442315	mrodriguez@mincomunicaciones.gov.co
Fernando Gutiérrez	Costa Rica	Ministry of Science and Technology	Vice-Minister - Science and Technology	Tel: (506) 290-5091/92	fgutierrez@micit.go.cr
Gerardo García Cabrera	Cuba	Science, Technology and Environment	Vice-Minister Cuban Delegation	Tel: (537) 626596	presaid@aid.inf.cu
Vilma Isabel Altet Casas	Cuba	Ministry of Informatics and Communications	Specialist from the Direction of Information Society	Tel: (537) 81-0887	mc207@mc.etecsa.cu
Rafael Antonio Ibarra Fernández	El Salvador	José Simeón Cañas Central American University	Informatics Director - Information Technologies Administrator at the University	Tel: (503) 273-8712 /4400/2601435	ribarra@di.uca.edu.sv
Francisco Huerta Montalvo	Ecuador	National Politechnical College	Professor	Tel: (593-2) 506693 Cel: 09462546	

* The list of participants is being circulated in the language of submission only.

Delegates	Country	Institution	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Rafael Emilio Mendia Monterroso	Guatemala	Francisco Marroquin University Engineering Faculty FISICC	Chair of Electronic Engineering - Co-ordinator of information technologies applications	Tel: (502) 3311642 (Direct) 3314826	rmendia@fisicc-ufm.edu
Claudina Mendonza	Honduras	Honduran Science and Technology Council (COHCIT)	Public Relations	Tel: (504) 2395186 Fax: 232 5669	cam@ns.cohcit.hondunet.net
Fay Angela Moody Sylvester	Jamaica	Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Technology	Permanent Secretary	Tel: (1876) 926-7604	fsylvester@mct.gov.br
Arturo Rueda	Mexico	General Consulate of Mexico	Consul	Tel: (55-21) 553-2059 /9496 Fax: 553-5925	commexrio@domain.com.br
Carla Ivete Pousa	Panama	National Secretariat of Science, Technology and Innovation	Legal Adviser	Tel: (507) 317-0015/16/17/18/19	cpousa@senacyt.gob.pa
Manuel A. Ossa	Panama	National Secretariat of Science, Technology and Innovation	Development Manager	Tel: (507) 317-0015 /16/17/18/19 Fax: (507) 317-0023	mossa@senacyt.gob.pa
Miguel Antonio Duarte de León	Paraguay	National University of Asunción	Director, Informatics Department Director, Teaching	Tel: (595-21) 585588/447560 Cel: (981) 405053	mduarte@pol.uma.py
Carlos A. Romero Sanjines	Peru	National Council of Science and Technology (CONCYTEC)	Presidential Adviser - Technologies and Information Society	Tel: (51-1) 226-0582 447-5128 Fax: 224-0920	cromero@concytec.gob.pe
Guillermo Gómez Huambachano	Peru	National Council of Science and Technology (CONCYTEC)	Presidential Adviser Legal Consultancy	Tel: (51-1) 4401485 pr. 4429819 res. Fax: 4410957	gomezh@terra.com.pe araceli@concytec.gob.pe

Delegates	Country	Institution			
Francia Sencion Ramirez	Dominican Republic	State Secretariat for Foreign Affairs	Ambassador - Chief of American Affairs Division	Tel: (1809) 482-0167	
Pablo Valenti	Uruguay	Presidency of the Eastern Republic of Uruguay	Adviser Strategy for Information Society	Tel: (598-2) 487-0009 Fax: (598-2) 480-7998	pvalenti@presidencia.gub.uy
Omar Montilla	Venezuela	National Centre for Information Technologies CNTI	Assistant to the President Educational Projects, Information Technologies Policies	Tel: (58-2) 709-5205 Fax: (58-2) 794-0592	omontilla@reaccion.ve